UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SHIVA STEIN,

Plaintiff, : Civil Action No. 22-cv-2647

v. : COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF

SECTIONS 14(a) AND 20(a) OF THESECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF

SOUTH JERSEY INDUSTRIES, INC., : SECU JOSEPH M. RIGBY, SARAH M. : 1934

JOSEPH M. RIGBY, SARAH M.
BARPOULIS, VICTOR A. FORTKIEWICZ,
SHEILA HARTNETT-DEVLIN, G. EDISON
HOLLAND, SUNITA HOLZER, KEVIN

O'DOWD, CHRISTOPHER PALADINO, MICHAEL J. RENNA, and FRANK L. SIMS,

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendants.

Shiva Stein ("Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys, alleges the following upon information and belief, including investigation of counsel and review of publicly-available information, except as to those allegations pertaining to Plaintiff, which are alleged upon personal knowledge:

- 1. This is an action brought by Plaintiff against South Jersey Industries, Inc. ("South Jersey or the "Company") and the members South Jersey's board of directors (the "Board" or the "Individual Defendants" and collectively with the Company, the "Defendants") for their violations of Sections 14(a) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 78n(a), 78t(a), and SEC Rule 14a-9, 17 C.F.R. 240.14a-9 and 17 C.F.R. § 244.100, in connection with the proposed acquisition of South Jersey by affiliates of Infrastructure Investments Fund ("IIF")
- 2. Defendants have violated the above-referenced sections of the Exchange Act by causing a materially incomplete and misleading Preliminary Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A

(the "Proxy Statement") to be filed on March 30, 2022 with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and disseminated to Company stockholders. The Proxy Statement recommends that Company stockholders vote in favor of a proposed transaction whereby the Boardwalk Merger Sub, Inc. ("Merger Sub"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mobius Parent Corp. ("Parent") and an affiliate of IIF, will merge with and into South Jersey with South Jersey surviving as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Parent (the "Proposed Transaction"). Pursuant to the terms of the definitive agreement and plan of merger the companies entered into on February 14, 2022 (the "Merger Agreement"), each South Jersey stockholder will receive \$11.00 in cash (the "Merger Consideration") for each South Jersey share owned.

- 1. As discussed below, Defendants have asked South Jersey's stockholders to support the Proposed Transaction based upon the materially incomplete and misleading representations and information contained in the Proxy Statement, in violation of Sections 14(a) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act. Specifically, the Proxy Statement contains materially incomplete and misleading information concerning the analyses performed by the Company's financial advisor, BofA Securities, Inc. ("BofA") in support of its fairness opinion.
- 2. It is imperative that the material information that has been omitted from the Proxy Statement is disclosed to the Company's stockholders prior to the forthcoming stockholder vote so that they can properly exercise their corporate suffrage rights.
- 3. For these reasons and as set forth in detail herein, Plaintiff seeks to enjoin Defendants from taking any steps to consummate the Proposed Transaction unless and until the material information discussed below is disclosed to South Jersey's stockholders or, in the event the Proposed Transaction is consummated, to recover damages resulting from the Defendants' violations of the Exchange Act.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to Section 27 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. § 78aa) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question jurisdiction) as Plaintiff alleges violations of Sections 14(a) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act and SEC Rule 14a-9.
- 5. Personal jurisdiction exists over each Defendant either because the Defendant conducts business in or maintains operations in this District, or is an individual who is either present in this District for jurisdictional purposes or has sufficient minimum contacts with this District as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over Defendant by this Court permissible under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.
- 6. Venue is proper in this District under Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, as well as under 28 U.S.C. § 1391, because South Jersey is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, which is headquartered in this District. In addition, the Proposed Transaction was partially negotiated in New York City and the closing of the Proposed Transaction will take place in this District.

PARTIES

- 7. Plaintiff is, and has been at all relevant times, the owner of South Jersey stocks and has held such stocks since prior to the wrongs complained of herein.
- 8. Individual Defendant Joseph M. Rigby has served as a member of the Board since 2016 and is the Chairman of the Board.
- 9. Individual Defendant Sarah M. Barpoulis has served as a member of the Board since 2012.
- 10. Individual Defendant Victor A. Fortkiewicz has served as a member of the Board since 2010.

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- 11. Individual Defendant Sheila Hartnett-Devlin has served as a member of the Board since 1999.
- 12. Individual Defendant G. Edison Holland has served as a member of the Board since 2019.
- 13. Individual Defendant Sunita Holzer has served as a member of the Board since 2011.
- 14. Individual Defendant Kevin O'Dowd has served as a member of the Board since 2020.
- 15. Individual Defendant Christopher Paladino has served as a member of the Board since 2020.
- 16. Individual Defendant Michael J. Renna has served as a member of the Board since2014 and is the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer.
- 17. Individual Defendant Frank L. Sims has served as a member of the Board since 2012.
- 18. Defendant South Jersey is a New Jersey corporation and maintains its principal offices at 1 South Jersey Plaza, Folson, New Jersey 08037. The Company's stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "SJI."
- 19. The defendants identified in paragraphs 10-17 are collectively referred to as the "Individual Defendants" or the "Board."
- 20. The defendants identified in paragraphs 10-18 are collectively referred to as the "Defendants."

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

A. The Proposed Transaction

- 21. South Jersey, through its subsidiaries, provides energy-related products and services. The Company engages in the purchase, transmission, and sale of natural gas. It also sells natural gas and pipeline transportation capacity on a wholesale basis to residential, commercial, and industrial customers on the interstate pipeline system, as well as transports natural gas purchased directly from producers or suppliers to customers. As of December 31, 2021, the Company had approximately 147 miles of mains in the transmission system and 6,815 miles of mains in the distribution system; and served 384,062 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in southern New Jersey. In addition, it markets natural gas storage, commodity, and transportation assets on a wholesale basis for energy marketers, electric and gas utilities, power plants, and natural gas producers in the mid-Atlantic, Appalachian, and southern regions of the United States. Further, the Company owns and operates rooftop solar-generation sites. Additionally, it owns oil, gas, and mineral rights in the Marcellus Shale region of Pennsylvania; acquires and markets natural gas and electricity to retail end users, as well as provides total energy management, fuel management, and energy procurement and cost reduction services. The Company was founded in 1910 and is headquartered in Folsom, New Jersey.
- 22. On February 24, 2022, the Company and IIF jointly announced the Proposed Transaction:

FOLSOM, NJ, and NEW YORK, February 24, 2022 – South Jersey Industries, Inc. (NYSE: SJI) (SJI) and the Infrastructure Investments Fund (IIF), a private investment vehicle focused on investing in critical infrastructure assets, today announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement under which IIF will purchase SJI for \$36.00 per share in cash, reflecting an enterprise value of approximately \$8.1 billion.

"As energy markets across the U.S. and New Jersey accelerate the transition toward low carbon and renewable energy, the SJI Board determined that now is the opportune time to join forces with IIF," said Mike Renna, President and CEO, SJI. "IIF is a trusted partner and long-term investor in utility and renewable energy companies, and together we will be well positioned to execute on SJI's clean energy and decarbonization initiatives in support of the environmental goals of our State and region. In addition, as a private company and with IIF's support, we will have additional resources to continue to modernize our critical infrastructure, maintain our high standard of customer service at reasonable rates, and further enhance the safety, reliability and sustainability of our businesses."

Mr. Renna continued, "This transaction is a testament to the achievements of our employees, and we are pleased that IIF recognizes the strength of our workforce and culture and shares our commitment to supporting the communities we serve. I would like to thank each of our employees for all they do each day to contribute to the success of SJI. I look forward to building on our strong foundation together."

IIF's long-term approach to investing in utility and infrastructure assets is directly aligned with SJI's mission to "build a better today and tomorrow" for the more than 700,000 families and businesses SJI serves, while continuing to support its 1,100-employee workforce and the communities in which SJI operates. SJI and IIF will work together to advance SJI's sustainability goals while SJI continues to provide excellent customer service, maintains an outstanding team and culture, and delivers on its commitment to improving the quality of life for all those who live and work in the communities it serves.

Andrew Gilbert, Investment Principal to IIF, said, "SJI has established itself as a leader among its peers, distinguished by the strength of its utilities and ability to provide quality service to its customers. SJI's long track record of investing in sustainability and clean energy initiatives has translated into a clear competitive advantage. We believe our expertise, resources and experience can help SJI further build on its leading position in the industry. We have great respect for SJI's talented team and look forward to partnering with them to safely provide clean and reliable energy to the communities of New Jersey."

Leadership and Headquarters

Following the close of the transaction, SJI will remain locally managed and operated with headquarters in Folsom, New Jersey. Mike Renna will continue as Chief Executive Officer and the current management team will continue to lead SJI.

Terms of the Transaction

The per share purchase price of \$36.00 represents a 46.3% premium to SJI's 30-day VWAP as of February 23, 2022, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the agreement. The transaction was unanimously approved by SJI's Board of Directors and is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2022, subject to the approval of SJI's shareholders, the receipt of regulatory approvals, including by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, and other customary closing conditions. Dividends payable to SJI shareholders are expected to continue in the ordinary course until the closing, subject to approval by SJI's Board of Directors. Upon completion of the transaction, SJI's shares will no longer trade on the New York Stock Exchange, and SJI will become a private company.

Fourth Quarter and Full Year 2021 Earnings Results

In a separate press release, SJI today issued its financial results for the fourth quarter and fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, which is accessible by visiting the Investor Relations section of the SJI corporate website at https://investors.sjindustries.com/home/default.aspx. In light of the announced transaction with IIF, SJI will not hold an earnings conference call.

Advisors

BofA Securities is acting as exclusive financial advisor and Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP is acting as legal advisor to SJI. Centerview Partners is acting as exclusive financial advisor and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP is acting as legal advisor to IIF. In addition, IIF has a committed bridge financing facility in place led by KeyBanc Capital Markets and PNC Capital Markets to support the transaction.

* * *

23. The Board has unanimously agreed to the Proposed Transaction. It is therefore imperative that South Jersey's stockholders are provided with the material information that has

been omitted from the Proxy Statement, so that they can meaningfully assess whether or not the Proposed Transaction is in their best interests prior to the forthcoming stockholder vote.

B. The Materially Incomplete and Misleading Proxy Statement

24. On March 30, 2022, South Jersey filed the Proxy Statement with the SEC in connection with the Proposed Transaction. The Proxy Statement was furnished to the Company's stockholders and solicits the stockholders to vote in favor of the Proposed Transaction. The Individual Defendants were obligated to carefully review the Proxy Statement before it was filed with the SEC and disseminated to the Company's stockholders to ensure that it did not contain any material misrepresentations or omissions. However, the Proxy Statement misrepresents and/or omits material information that is necessary for the Company's stockholders to make an informed decision concerning whether to vote in favor of the Proposed Transaction, in violation of Sections 14(a) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act.

Omissions and/or Material Misrepresentations Concerning Financial Projections

25. The Proxy Statement fails to provide material information concerning financial projections by South Jersey management and relied upon by BofA in its analyses. The Proxy Statement discloses management-prepared financial projections for the Company which are materially misleading. The Proxy Statement indicates that in connection with the rendering of its fairness opinion, that the Company prepared certain non-public financial forecasts (the "Company Projections") and provided them to the Board and BofA with forming a view about the stand-alone valuation of the Company. Accordingly, the Proxy Statement should have, but fails to provide, certain information in the projections that South Jersey management provided to the Board and the financial advisors. Courts have uniformly stated that "projections ... are probably among the most highly-prized disclosures by investors. Investors can come up with their own estimates of discount rates or [] market multiples. What they cannot hope to do is replicate management's inside view

of the company's prospects." *In re Netsmart Techs., Inc. S'holders Litig.*, 924 A.2d 171, 201-203 (Del. Ch. 2007).

- 26. For the Company Projections, the Proxy Statement provides values for non-GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) financial metrics: Adjusted EBIT, Adjusted EBITDA, and Unlevered Free Cash Flow, but fails to provide line items used to calculate the metrics and/or a reconciliation of the non-GAAP metrics to their most comparable GAAP measures, in direct violation of Regulation G and consequently Section 14(a).
- When a company discloses non-GAAP financial measures in a Proxy Statement that were relied on by a board of directors to recommend that stockholders exercise their corporate suffrage rights in a particular manner, the company must, pursuant to SEC regulatory mandates, also disclose all projections and information necessary to make the non-GAAP measures not misleading, and must provide a reconciliation (by schedule or other clearly understandable method) of the differences between the non-GAAP financial measure disclosed or released with the most comparable financial measure or measures calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP. 17 C.F.R. § 244.100.

28. The SEC has noted that:

companies should be aware that this measure does not have a uniform definition and its title does not describe how it is calculated. Accordingly, a clear description of how this measure is calculated, as well as the necessary reconciliation, should accompany the measure where it is used. Companies should also avoid inappropriate or potentially misleading inferences about its usefulness. For example, "free cash flow" should not be used in a manner that inappropriately implies that the measure represents the residual cash flow available for discretionary expenditures, since many companies have mandatory debt service requirements or other

non-discretionary expenditures that are not deducted from the measure.¹

- 29. Thus, to cure the Proxy Statement and the materially misleading nature of the forecasts under SEC Rule 14a-9 as a result of the omitted information in the Proxy Statement, Defendants must provide a reconciliation table of the non-GAAP measures to the most comparable GAAP measures to make the non-GAAP metrics included in the Proxy Statement not misleading. *Omissions and/or Material Misrepresentations Concerning Financial Analyses*
- 30. With respect to BofA's *Selected Publicly Traded Companies Analysis*, the Proxy Statement fails to disclose the individual financial metrics for the companies observed by BofA in the analysis, including equity market value, net income, enterprise value, and EBITDA for each company selected and observed by BofA in the analysis.
- 31. With respect to BofA's *Selected Transactions Analysis*, the Proxy Statement fails to disclose the individual financial metrics for the transactions observed by BofA in the analysis, including the last twelve months EBITDA for each target company selected and observed by BofA in the analysis.
- 32. With respect to BofA's *Discounted Cash Flow Analysis WholeCo*, the Proxy Statement fails to disclose: (i) the implied terminal enterprise values of South Jersey; (ii) line items used to calculate the Company's projected unlevered free cash flows for fiscal years 2022 through 2025; (iii) the inputs and assumptions underlying the use of a range of P.E. multiples of 15.5x to 17.5x; (iv) the inputs and assumptions underlying the use of the range of discount rates of 4.50% to 5.50%; and (v) the estimated marginal tax rate provided to BofA by Company management.

¹ U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Non-GAAP Financial Measures, last updated April 4, 2018, available at: https://www.sec.gov/divisions/corpfin/guidance/nongaapinterp.htm

- 33. With respect to BofA's *Discounted Cash Flow Analysis Utility Segment*, the Proxy Statement fails to disclose: (i) the implied terminal enterprise values of South Jersey's Utility Segment; (ii) line items used to calculate the Company's projected unlevered free cash flows for fiscal years 2022 through 2025 for its Utility Segment; (iii) the inputs and assumptions underlying the use of a range of P.E. multiples of 18.0x to 20.0x; and (iv) the inputs and assumptions underlying the use of the range of discount rates of 4.25% to 5.25%.
- 34. With respect to BofA's *Discounted Cash Flow Analysis Non-Utility Segment*, the Proxy Statement fails to disclose: (i) the implied terminal enterprise values of South Jersey's Non-Utility Segment; (ii) line items used to calculate the Company's projected unlevered free cash flows for fiscal years 2022 through 2025 for its Non-Utility Segment; (iii) the inputs and assumptions underlying the use of a range of EBITDA multiples of 9.5x to 13.0x; and (iv) the inputs and assumptions underlying the use of the range of discount rates of 8.5% to 10.5%.
- 35. With respect to BofA's *Wall Street Analysts Price Targets* analysis, the Proxy Statement fails to disclose the wall street analysts observed and the price targets published by each analyst.
- 36. In sum, the omission of the above-referenced information renders statements in the Proxy Statement materially incomplete and misleading in contravention of the Exchange Act. Absent disclosure of the foregoing material information prior to the special stockholder meeting to vote on the Proposed Transaction, Plaintiff will be unable to make a fully-informed decision regarding whether to vote in favor of the Proposed Transaction, and she is thus threatened with irreparable harm, warranting the injunctive relief sought herein.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT I

On Behalf of Plaintiff Against All Defendants for Violations of Section 14(a) of the Exchange Act and Rule 14a-9 and 17 C.F.R. § 244.100

- 37. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 38. Rule 14a-9, promulgated by the SEC pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Exchange Act, provides that proxy communications with stockholders shall not contain "any statement which, at the time and in the light of the circumstances under which it is made, is false or misleading with respect to any material fact, or which omits to state any material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein not false or misleading." 17 C.F.R. § 240.14a-9.
- 39. Defendants have issued the Proxy Statement with the intention of soliciting stockholder support for the Proposed Transaction. Each of the Defendants reviewed and authorized the dissemination of the Proxy Statement and the use of their name in the Proxy Statement, which fails to provide critical information regarding, among other things, the financial projections that were prepared by the Company and relied upon by the Board in recommending the Company's stockholders vote in favor of the Proposed Transaction.
- 40. In so doing, Defendants made untrue statements of fact and/or omitted material facts necessary to make the statements made not misleading. Each of the Individual Defendants, by virtue of their roles as officers and/or directors, were aware of the omitted information but failed to disclose such information, in violation of Section 14(a). The Individual Defendants were therefore negligent, as they had reasonable grounds to believe material facts existed that were misstated or omitted from the Proxy Statement, but nonetheless failed to obtain and disclose such information to stockholders although they could have done so without extraordinary effort.

- 41. Defendants were, at the very least, negligent in preparing and reviewing the Proxy Statement. The preparation of a Proxy Statement by corporate insiders containing materially false or misleading statements or omitting a material fact constitutes negligence. Defendants were negligent in choosing to omit material information from the Proxy Statement or failing to notice the material omissions in the Proxy Statement upon reviewing it, which they were required to do carefully. Indeed, Defendants were intricately involved in the process leading up to the signing of the Merger Agreement and the preparation and review of strategic alternatives.
- 42. The misrepresentations and omissions in the Proxy Statement are material to Plaintiff, who will be deprived of her right to cast an informed vote if such misrepresentations and omissions are not corrected prior to the vote on the Proposed Transaction. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law. Only through the exercise of this Court's equitable powers can Plaintiff be fully protected from the immediate and irreparable injury that Defendants' actions threaten to inflict.

COUNT II

On Behalf of Plaintiff Against the Individual Defendants for Violations of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act

- 43. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 44. The Individual Defendants acted as controlling persons of South Jersey within the meaning of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act as alleged herein. By virtue of their positions as directors of South Jersey, and participation in and/or awareness of the Company's operations and/or intimate knowledge of the incomplete and misleading statements contained in the Proxy Statement filed with the SEC, they had the power to influence and control and did influence and control, directly or indirectly, the decision making of South Jersey, including the content and

dissemination of the various statements that Plaintiff contends are materially incomplete and misleading.

- 45. Each of the Individual Defendants was provided with or had unlimited access to copies of the Proxy Statement and other statements alleged by Plaintiff to be misleading prior to and/or shortly after these statements were issued and had the ability to prevent the issuance of the statements or cause the statements to be corrected.
- 46. In particular, each of the Individual Defendants had direct and supervisory involvement in the day-to-day operations of South Jersey, and, therefore, is presumed to have had the power to control or influence the particular transactions giving rise to the Exchange Act violations alleged herein, and exercised the same. The omitted information identified above was reviewed by the Board prior to voting on the Proposed Transaction. The Proxy Statement at issue contains the unanimous recommendation of the Board to approve the Proposed Transaction. The Individual Defendants were thus directly involved in the making of the Proxy Statement.
- 47. In addition, as the Proxy Statement sets forth at length, and as described herein, the Individual Defendants were involved in negotiating, reviewing, and approving the Merger Agreement. The Proxy Statement purports to describe the various issues and information that the Individual Defendants reviewed and considered. The Individual Defendants participated in drafting and/or gave their input on the content of those descriptions.
- 48. By virtue of the foregoing, the Individual Defendants have violated Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act.
- 49. As set forth above, the Individual Defendants had the ability to exercise control over and did control a person or persons who have each violated Section 14(a) and Rule 14a-9, by their acts and omissions as alleged herein. By virtue of their positions as controlling persons, these

defendants are liable pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act. As a direct and proximate

result of Individual Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff will be irreparably harmed.

50. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law. Only through the exercise of this Court's

equitable powers can Plaintiff be fully protected from the immediate and irreparable injury that

Defendants' actions threaten to inflict.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands injunctive relief in her favor and against the Defendants

jointly and severally, as follows:

A. Preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendants and their counsel, agents,

employees and all persons acting under, in concert with, or for them, from proceeding with,

consummating, or closing the Proposed Transaction, unless and until Defendants disclose the

material information identified above which has been omitted from the Proxy Statement;

B. Rescinding, to the extent already implemented, the Merger Agreement or any of

the terms thereof, or granting Plaintiff rescissory damages;

C. Directing the Defendants to account to Plaintiff for all damages suffered as a result

of their wrongdoing;

D. Awarding Plaintiff the costs and disbursements of this action, including reasonable

attorneys' and expert fees and expenses; and

E. Granting such other and further equitable relief as this Court may deem just and

proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

Dated: March 31, 2022

MELWANI & CHAN LLP

By: /s/ Gloria Kui Melwani

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